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To: <u>Pauley</u>

Sara <Sara.Pauley@dnr.mo.gov>

CC:

From:

Date: 9/24/2013 4:50:21 PM Subject: West Lake/Bridgeton

Hi Sara,

I talked today briefly with County Executive Dooley about Republic's plans to build an isolation trench. I assured him that EPA knew of no change in status in the Bridgeton event or in the risks to public safety from that event. And I told him that EPA understood MDNR and the AG to have the same view: status is same as during summer. When he asked why Republic decided to build a trench, if no status changes in Bridgeton event or public health condition, I told him I couldn't speak for Republic and sent him Republic's and EPA's Friday press releases. I've attached the Republic release in case you haven't seen it.

On a related front, conversations between EPA, Republic, and St Louis Airport counsel this week established that Airport's primary goal is to establish that Republic will pay for all increased costs required to satisfy USDA's bird mitigation plans. Airport has no interest in attending trench negotiations and sees no need to amend negative easement as long as Republic commits to following USDA guidance on bird mitigation during construction. That's a positive development from our view, though EPA hasn't directly posed the payment issue to Republic yet.

Cheers,

Karl Brooks Regional Administrator EPA Region 7 913-551-7006